



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 23, 2003**

- ***In the West***, widespread rain and snow showers continue across the ***Intermountain region***, improving water-supply prospects and providing additional relief from long-term drought. Meanwhile, cool weather lingers across ***California's Central Valley***, but dry weather is permitting a limited return to fieldwork.
- ***On the Plains***, showers and locally heavy thunderstorms continue to aid winter wheat and recently planted summer crops, including unfavorably dry areas in parts of ***western Oklahoma and northern Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool conditions are slowing the development of winter wheat and other crops in the ***lower Great Lakes region***. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather favors summer crop planting in the ***southern Corn Belt*** and pre-planting fieldwork elsewhere in the ***Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather favors summer crop planting, emergence, and establishment, although a few pockets of dryness are developing from the ***Delta westward***.

**Outlook:** For the remainder of the week, a complex, slow-moving storm system will trigger widespread showers and thunderstorms across the ***central U.S.***, including locally heavy rain in the ***central and southern Plains, southern Corn Belt, and Delta***. Meanwhile, another Pacific storm system will maintain late-season wetness from the ***Pacific Coast to the Rockies***, although mostly dry weather will persist in the ***Southwest***. Elsewhere, rain and snow will linger in the ***Northeast***, while dry, cool weather will prevail across the ***Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeastern States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 28 - May 2 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Great Basin, northern and central portions of the Rockies and Plains, western Corn Belt, and Gulf Coast region***. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation is forecast across ***southern parts of the Rockies and Plains***, and areas from the ***Tennessee Valley into the Northeast***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***Ohio Valley*** and across the ***South***, while cooler-than-normal weather is likely in the ***West***, on the ***northern and central High Plains***, and across ***northern New England***.

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